AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-22 (Cancelled).

23. (Previously Presented) A method of communicating with a medical device, comprising:

providing a medical device having a slot defined in an exterior surface thereof;

providing an information storage device sized and configured to be selectively disposed in the slot;

inserting the information storage device into the slot;

communicating information from the information storage device to the medical device responsive to the information storage device being disposed in the slot; and

preventing such a medical device from receiving the information from the information storage device after the information has been initially provided to such a medical device.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, further comprising causing the medical device to operate in a predetermined manner based on information read from the information storage device responsive to the information storage device being inserted into the slot.

Claim 25 (Cancelled).

26. (Original) The method of claim 23, further comprising:

monitoring usage of the medical device; and

writing information regarding usage of the medical device onto the information storage device.

Claims 27 and 28. (Cancelled).

29. (Original) The method of claim 23, further comprising writing information from the pressure support device to the information storage device.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, further comprising:

removing the information storage device from the slot in medical device;

transporting the information storage device to a remote location; and

downloading information concerning the pressure support device from the information storage device at the remote location.

Claims 31-40. (Cancelled)

41. (Previously Presented) A pressure support system comprising:

pressure generating means for generating a flow of breathing gas;

controlling means for controlling the operation of the pressure generating means;

housing means for housing the pressure generating means and the controlling means;

receiving means associated with the housing means for receiving an information storing means;

information storing means for storing information adapted to be disposed in the receiving means;

communicating means for communicating information in at least one of (1) a first direction from the information storing means to the controlling means and (2a) second direction from the controlling means to the information storing means responsive to the information storing means being disposed in the receiving means; and

means for preventing the controlling means from receiving operating information from the information storage device after such operating information has been initially provided to the pressure support device.

42. (Previously Presented) A pressure support system comprising:

pressure generating means for generating a flow of breathing gas;

controlling means for controlling the operation of the pressure generating means;

housing means for housing the pressure generating means and the controlling means;

receiving means associated with the housing means for receiving an information storing means;

information storing means for storing information adapted to be disposed in the receiving means;

communicating means for communicating information in at least one of (1) a first direction from the information storing means to the controlling means and (2a) second direction from the controlling means to the information storing means responsive to the information storing means being disposed in the receiving means; and

adapter means, sized and configured to be received, at least partially, within the receiving means, for providing a communication link between the controlling means and an external device responsive to being disposed on the receiving means.

43. (Currently Amended) A pressure support system comprising:

a housing;

a pressure generating system disposed within the housing for generating a flow of breathing gas;

a controller disposed within the housing in communication with the pressure generating system that controls the operation of the pressure generating system;

a transceiver operatively coupled to the controller such that ~~an~~ a hand-held information storage device communicates wirelessly with the controller via the transceiver responsive to the hand-held information storage device being disposed proximate to the transceiver and not in direct contact with the pressure support system, wherein the controller is adapted to at least one of (1) read information from the information storage device and (2) write information to the information storage device via the transceiver, and wherein the controller ceases communicating with communicating with the hand-held information storage device via the transceiver responsive to the information storage device being disposed a predetermined distance from the transceiver.

44. (Previously Presented) A method of configuring and pressure support system, comprising:

providing a pressure support system having a slot defined in an exterior surface thereof;

providing an information storage device sized and configured to be selectively disposed in the slot;

inserting the information storage device into the slot;

communicating first information from the information storage device to the medical device responsive to the information storage device being disposed in the slot; and

configuring the pressure support system based on the first information, wherein the first information includes operating mode information designating an operating mode of the pressure support device and operating parameter information designating an operating parameter of the pressure support device, and wherein configuring the pressure support system based on the first information include setting an operating mode of the pressure support system to correspond to the operating mode designated by the operating mode information and setting an operating parameter of the pressure support system to correspond to the operating parameter designated by the operating mode information.

Claim 45. (Cancelled).

46. (Previously Presented) A method of configuring and pressure support system, comprising:

providing a pressure support system having a slot defined in an exterior surface thereof;

providing an information storage device sized and configured to be selectively disposed in the slot;

inserting the information storage device into the slot;

communicating first information from the information storage device to the medical device responsive to the information storage device being disposed in the slot;

configuring the pressure support system based on the first information; and

preventing the pressure support system from receiving the first information from the information storage device after the first information has been initially provided to such a medical device.

47. (Original) The method of claim 44, further comprising:

monitoring usage of the pressure support system; and

writing information regarding usage of the pressure support system onto the information storage device.

48. (Previously Presented) An information storage device adapted for use with a medical device, the information storage device comprising:

an identification storage area adapted to contain at least one of (1) information describing the information storage device itself, (2) information identifying a user to which the information storage device is assigned, and (3) information identifying a medical device assigned for use with the information storage device;

a first information storage area adapted to contain operating information for use in controlling an operation of such a medical device; and

at least one of (1) a first control data storage area adapted to contain information that controls whether the operating information can be read from the information storage device, (2) a second control data storage area adapted to contain information that controls whether the operating information can be erased from the information storage device, and (3) a display data storage area adapted to contain information to be displayed on such a medical device.

49. (Previously Presented) The information storage device of claim 48, wherein the medical device is a pressure support device, and wherein the first information storage area includes a first area containing (1) operating mode information designating an operating mode of the pressure support device and (2) operating parameter information designating an operating parameter of the pressure support device.

50. (Previously Presented) A pressure support system comprising:

(a) a pressure support device comprising:

(1) a housing,

(2) a pressure generating system disposed within the housing for generating a flow of breathing gas,

(3) a controller disposed within the housing in communication with the pressure generating system that controls the operation of the pressure generating system,

(4) a slot defined in an exterior surface of the housing, and

(5) a terminal associated with the slot;

(b) an information storage device adapted to be selectively disposed in the slot, the information storage device comprising:

(1) an identification storage area adapted to contain information identifying at least one of (i) information describing the information storage device itself, (ii) information identifying a user to which the information storage device is assigned,

and (iii) information identifying the pressure support device assigned for use with the information storage device,

(2) at least one of (i) a first information storage area adapted to contain information for use in controlling an operation of the pressure support device, and (ii) a data storage area adapted to store data written thereon by the pressure support device, wherein the controller communicates with the information storage device via the terminal responsive to the information storage device being disposed in the slot, and wherein the controller is adapted to at least one of (1) read information from the information storage device and (2) write information to the information storage device via the terminal; and

(c) an adapter adapted to be selectively disposed in the slot, wherein the adapter provides communication access between the controller and an external device responsive to being inserted into the slot.